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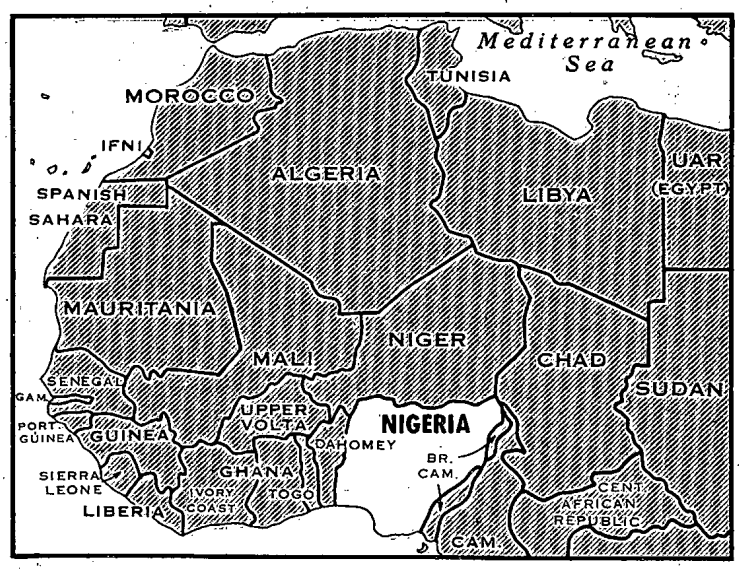
NIE 64.2-61 ADVCON
24 January 1961

NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE ESTIMATE

PROBABLE DEVELOPMENTS IN THE FEDERATION OF NIGERIA

NOTE: This is an advance copy of the conclusions of this estimate as approved by the United States Intelligence Board. The complete text will be circulated within five days of this issuance.



- Political outlook
- Economic prospects
- International orientation

Central Intelligence Agency

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Submitted by the

DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

The following intelligence organizations participated in the preparation of this estimate: The Central Intelligence Agency and the intelligence organizations of the Departments of State, the Army, the Navy, the Air Force, and The Joint Staff.

Concurred in by the

UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD

on ***24 January 1961.*** *Concurring were the Director of Intelligence and Research, Department of State; the Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence, Department of the Army; the Assistant Chief of Naval Operations (Intelligence), Department of the Navy; the Assistant Chief of Staff, Intelligence, USAF; the Director for Intelligence, Joint Staff; the Assistant to the Secretary of Defense, Special Operations; and the Director of the National Security Agency. The Atomic Energy Commission Representative to the USIB and the Assistant Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation, abstained, the subject being outside of their jurisdiction.*

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C E N T R A L I N T E L L I G E N C E A G E N C Y

24 January 1961

SUBJECT: NIE 64.2-61: PROBABLE DEVELOPMENTS IN THE FEDERATION OF NIGERIA

THE PROBLEM

To estimate probable developments in the Federation of Nigeria over the next two years or so.

CONCLUSIONS

1. Nigeria, which achieved independence on 1 October 1960, promises to develop into a moderate and influential African state. Independence of this most populous African state came without bitterness toward the UK, its former colonial ruler.

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Nigeria has responsible leadership, a substantial civil service trained in internal administration, and security forces able to maintain domestic order. The general outlook for stability and internal cohesion appears favorable.

2. However, Nigeria's population is made up of a wide diversity of ethnic groups, and each of its three regions is controlled by a major tribal group and its attendant political party. The Federal Government is now controlled by a coalition. There are wide social, cultural, economic and political divergencies between the regions and conflicting interests and aspirations contribute to tensions within the federation. As the excitement of independence recedes, and as pressures for economic and social progress and reform grow, strains will be put on the federal system. The two southern regions, in particular, will press for a stronger central government and more radical solutions of internal problems.

3. Nigeria's economy is predominantly agricultural, and its foreign exchange earnings come principally from the export of agricultural products whose prices are subject to fluctuations beyond Nigerian control. Before independence Nigeria had achieved a fair degree of economic development, and there

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and there are prospects for further progress. Domestic capital is, however, scarce and Nigeria will look to the UK and the West for considerable assistance. Although the present leaders are not anxious to turn to the Bloc for aid, it will be difficult for them to reject attractive offers which compete with or supplement Western assistance.

4. In foreign affairs Nigeria will seek a position of leadership in Africa. In doing so it will attempt to play a moderating role between differing African factions but probably will find itself most frequently aligned with the conservative states and opposed to the radicalism of states like Ghana and Guinea. On issues believed to involve colonialism, however, Nigeria will almost always find itself in agreement with the majority of Afro-Asian states. As Nigeria manifests a growing sense of independence on international issues, British political influence will decline. While the US now enjoys some prestige among Nigerian leaders, US relations with Nigeria will be plagued by the former's close identification with European colonial powers, by Nigerian suspicions that US attitudes toward Africa are too heavily influenced by cold war considerations, and by Nigerian sensitivity on racial issues.

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5. In accordance with its announced policy of nonalignment, Nigeria will probably establish diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union and some European satellites during the next year or so. The diplomatic and economic presence of Bloc countries within Nigeria will give them opportunities for increasing their influence at the expense of the West. Nevertheless, Western influence will be more affected by Western policies and actions on specific African issues than by Bloc initiatives within Nigeria.

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